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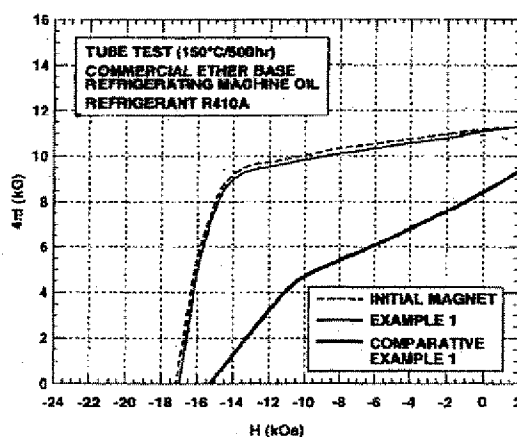
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(54) Preparation of rare earth permanent magnets

(57) An R-Fe-B permanent magnet wherein R is Nd or a combination of Nd with a rare earth element is prepared by casting an R-Fe-B alloy, crushing the alloy in an oxygen-free atmosphere of argon, nitrogen or vacuum, effecting comminution, compaction, sintering, aging, and cutting and/or polishing the magnet to give a

finished surface. The magnet is then heat treated in an argon, nitrogen or low-pressure vacuum atmosphere having a limited oxygen partial pressure, obtaining a highly oil resistant sintered permanent magnet having corrosion resistance and hydrogen barrier property even in a high pressure hot environment of refrigerant and/or lubricant as encountered in compressors.

FIG.1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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A	* page 6, line 15 - line 39; claims 1-3, 5; figure 3; example 3 *	2	
A	EP 0 289 599 A (NAMIKI PRECISION JEWEL CO LTD) 9 November 1988 (1988-11-09) * page 3, paragraph 3 - page 5, paragraph 3; claims 1, 4 *	1-4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (In Cl.7)
			H01F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 26 November 2002	Examiner Decanniere, L
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document</p> <p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application I: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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